

REMARKS

These amendments are made to the claims prior to a first office action in order to provide applicants with a scope of claim coverage to which they are entitled. In this regard, the original independent claims were somewhat more limited than necessary to avoid the prior art of which applicants are aware.

In addition, new dependent claims are added so as not to lose the more specific claim language of the original independent claims.

An IDS is being filed separately citing newly found publications of interest for this application.

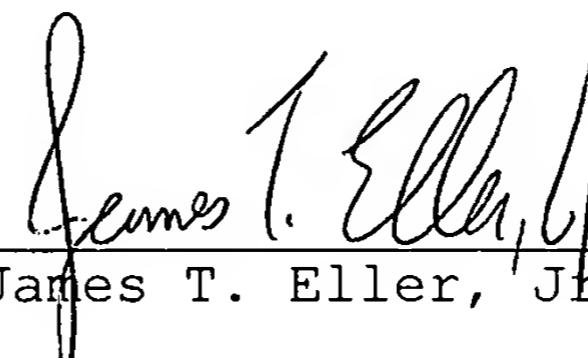
**Conclusion**

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned below.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By   
James T. Eller, Jr., Reg.#39,538

P.O. Box 747  
Falls Church, VA 22040-0747  
(703) 205-8000

JTE/FPB:tm  
4087-0103P

Attachments